

From: Cynthia Race [<mailto:rabbit@wwc.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 9:29 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Cc: yscuba@californiadiivers.com
Subject: MLPAComments: Support for Package 2 or a modified Package S

I would like to reiterate my support for Package 2, and voice my concern over the new proposed Package S. Package 2 protects with State Marine Reserves (SMRs) the heavily dived areas from Breakwater to Hopkins, off Pacific Grove, and along the reefs east from the Pinnacles past Pescadero Point to Pescadero Rocks and Dali's Reef. Like all the packages, Package 2 also has SMCAs at Pacific Grove and Carmel Bay that allow recreational fishing - but unlike Package S, Package 2 includes an important SMCA fishing regulation: while spearfishing is allowed, spearfishing contests are banned.

While I don't personally take anything other than trash or photographs from the ocean, I do know people who spearfish, and don't object to people taking a fish or two for personal consumption. What I do object to is contests which target the largest (most reproductive) and rarest fish. This practice is a huge detriment to the ecosystem of the reefs, as well as a detraction to the enjoyment of the hundreds of divers such as myself and the photography contingent who prefer to have their "takes" be in photographic form to allow the fish to remain on the reef for others to see and enjoy.

I could support a package that allows for very limited personal catches, but not one that allows for contests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Cynthia Race
1047 Inverness Drive
San Carlos, CA